the dominant characters of each, we will be able to plan for results a little better.

I also picked up quite a number of old forms of H. rosa sinensis, mainly the Indian ones. Otherwise it was pretty much a dry run.

This issue of "Seed Pod" covered several things on which I would like to comment.

First, as regards Walker Lyon's suggestion that more experience data be recorded. In this connection, I recently found a file of correspondence between J. A. Johnson and myself, in the late 1940's. Johnson died in 1947, and the letters go right up to his death. I am editing these, and further, I am trying to contact Johnson's son in Honolulu, in an effort to see if any additional papers are available. Johnson, in my opinion, did more than any other man to develop the modern hybrid. When I have this material in shape, I will make it available to the "Seed Pod" if you would like to have it. Incidently, Johnson is one old timer who was free and open in his advice on hibiscus breeding.

Second, as to the letter from S. C. Harland: I was quite surprised to see this letter as I had just learned, in Fiji, that Dr. Harland was back in Peru. I had correspondence with him there in the early 1950's, and later he went back to the University of Manchester. Each time I was in Manchester, when I worked in England, I made plans to call on him, but never did make it. As you perhaps know, he is one of the three top cytogeneticists working on cotton.

Now, as this matter of crosses between H. rosa sinensis and H. Syriacus has been brought up, I think it should be aired thoroughly, once and for all. It is my opinion that Dr. Egolf has made, and is still trying to make this cross under the best possible conditions, in both open and laboratory methods, and

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to my knowledge, he has not succeeded. The chromosome number varies greatly from the H. rosa sinensis counts which have been made, and while there may be some true species which will eventially be found to be cross compatible with both, and thus become a bridge species, this is a rather remote possibility, at least, in my opinion.

I have always felt that the crosses reported between H. rosa sinensis and H. syriacus were due to mistaken identity - they were using the small lavender which we call Hale. Blue, now established as an H. Denisonii hybrid. Also, there is a form of H. liliflorus pictured in old literature as being lavender pink.

But the best way to bring this out into the open is to ask Dr. Egolf to give you a report on his work, and also, to give an opinion as to whether he thinks that the cross can be made out of the laboratory. There has been too much hearsay, and too little proof.

I have been interested in this matter for years. As you know, Jim Hendry is said to have made the cross, resulting in his Dolores Del Rio and another lavender double, the name of which I have forgotten. However, the last time I visited him, I asked him about this cross and he said that inasmuch as he had received many plants from Cooper Ranch in Hawaii, in the early days, it was quite possible that he had used what we call Hale. Blue, mistaking it for H. Syriacus. Under certain conditions, this mistake could have been easily made. It was on Cooper Ranch that I found Hale. Blue (Also at Halekula Garden) in 1953.

Incidentialy, that's a pretty big hibiscus that Bruce is showing. The old master must be making a real comeback.

That piece about handling cuttings is very timely. I do not like to even wet mine. In recent years, being quite a cheese eater, that is, an Edam cheese

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